

20 ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

herself, in a dreamy sort of way, "Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats?" and sometimes "Do bats eat cats?", for, you see, as she couldn't answer either question, it didn't much matter which way she put it. She felt that she was dozing off, and had just begun to dream that she was walking hand in hand with Dinah, and was saying to her, very earnestly, "Now, Dinah, tell me the truth: did you ever eat a bat?", when suddenly, thump! thump! down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the fall was over.

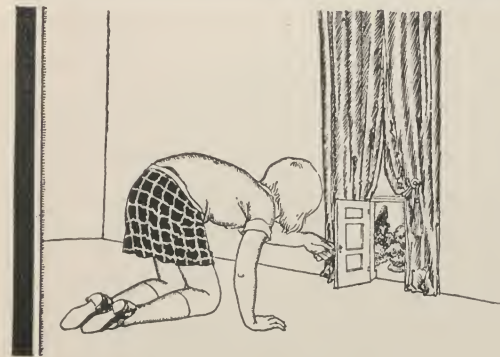
Alice was not a bit hurt, and she jumped up on to her feet in a moment: she looked up, but it was all dark overhead: before her was another long passage, and the White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying down it. There was not a moment to be lost: away went Alice like the wind, and was just in time to hear it say, as it turned a corner, "Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting!" She was close behind it when she turned the corner, but the Rabbit was no longer to be seen: she found herself in a long, low hall, which was lit up by a row of lamps hanging from the roof.

There were doors all round the hall, but they were all locked; and when Alice had been all the way down one side and up the other, trying every

DOWN THE RABBIT-

door, she walked sadly down the hall, wondering how she was ever to get out again.

Suddenly she came upon a large table, all made of solid glass: there was on it but a tiny golden key, and Alice thought that this might belong to one of the doors in the hall; but, alas! either the locks were all different, or the key was too small, but at any rate she could not open any of them. However, one day, round, she came upon a low curtain which she had not noticed before, and behind it was a little door fifteen inches high: she tried the key in the lock, and to her great delight



Alice opened the door and found a small passage, not much larger than the hole in the door: she knelt down and looked along it, and there, at the end, was the loveliest garden you ever saw.